

ASSEMBLY, No. 3018

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires NJ Clean Energy Program incentives be made available to commercial farms.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning energy efficiency incentives for commercial
2 farms and supplementing P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-49 et al.).

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, or any rule,
8 regulation, or order adopted pursuant thereto, to the contrary, the
9 owner of a commercial farm shall be eligible to apply for, and
10 receive, any applicable incentives made available by the Board of
11 Public Utilities through the New Jersey Clean Energy Program with
12 funding provided by the societal benefits charge that is imposed
13 pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-60).

14 b. The Board of Public Utilities, in consultation with the
15 Department of Agriculture, shall establish a program to encourage
16 or assist the owners of commercial farms to conduct energy audits
17 to identify the current energy use of buildings and equipment and
18 identify energy conservation measures that can be implemented in
19 order to realize and maximize energy savings and energy efficiency.

20 c. The Board of Public Utilities shall publish on its Internet
21 website any incentives and programs that are available to the
22 owners of commercial farms pursuant to this section.

23 d. As used in this section:

24 “Commercial farm” means the same as the term is defined at
25 P.L.1983, c.31 (C.4:1C-3).

26 “Energy audit” means an assessment of all energy-using systems
27 to determine the consumption characteristics of a commercial farm
28 which shall (1) identify the type, size, and rate of energy
29 consumption of a commercial farm; (2) identify appropriate energy
30 conservation maintenance and operating procedures; and (3)
31 indicate the need, if any, for the acquisition and installation of
32 energy conservation measures.

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34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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37 **STATEMENT**

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39 The bill would allow the owners of commercial farms to be
40 eligible to apply for, and receive, any applicable incentives made
41 available by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) through the New
42 Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP).

43 In addition, the bill would require the BPU, in consultation with
44 the Department of Agriculture, to establish a program to encourage
45 or assist the owners of commercial farms to conduct energy audits
46 to identify the current energy use of buildings and equipment and
47 identify energy conservation measures that can be implemented in
48 order to realize and maximize energy savings and energy efficiency.

1 The bill defines “energy audit” as an assessment of all energy-using
2 systems to determine the consumption characteristics of a
3 commercial farm which shall (1) identify the type, size, and rate of
4 energy consumption of a commercial farm; (2) identify appropriate
5 energy conservation maintenance and operating procedures; and (3)
6 indicate the need, if any, for the acquisition and installation of
7 energy conservation measures.

8 The bill would also require the BPU to publish on its Internet
9 website any incentives or programs that are available to the owners
10 of commercial farms under the NJCEP and information concerning
11 the program established by the BPU, pursuant to the bill, to
12 encourage or assist the owners of commercial farms in conducting
13 energy audits.

14 Currently, commercial farms do not fit clearly into the incentive
15 programs offered by the NJCEP, which is divided into categories
16 for residential, commercial, industrial, local government, and
17 multifamily. A farmhouse or residential dwelling on farmland
18 would be eligible for incentives offered in the residential category
19 of the NJCEP since the farmhouse or dwelling qualifies as a
20 residence, however, there are no additional incentives or programs
21 specifically available to the owners of commercial farms under the
22 NJCEP. The bill would allow the owners of commercial farms to
23 participate in the NJCEP and receive applicable incentives under
24 the program while improving the energy efficiency of their farms.